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Thursday, March 31, 2016

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FRED MERCNIK/SPECIAL TO THE ADVANCE

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Councillors concerned over future of Upper Canada Lodge

SUZANNE MASON
Special to the Advance

Niagara-on-the-Lake councillors want some answers from Niagara Region to their questions about the future of long-term care provisions for their residents.

Councillors were responding Monday to a preliminary report by a consultant to regional council last week that outlined possible options for the three long-term care homes operated by the Region. One of them, Upper Canada Lodge, is an 80-bed facility located in the town on land owned by Parks Canada.

The facilities are under review by the Region as they will not meet structural compliance requirements by 2025. The preliminary report said a health hub model that could include additional services such as assisted living, memory care, a pharmacy and independent supportive-living seniors housing makes sense for Niagara.

Surveys of Niagara residents and focus groups held earlier this year showed people preferred a hub model rather than just a long-term care facility, according to Jason Burgess, the Region's director of procurement and strategic acquisition.

The preliminary report also said that moving away from the 80-bed facility model would save the Region money. It said that Niagara-on-the-Lake is oversupplied with long-term care beds and does not meet the demand to justify a seniors housing development.

Just under 40 per cent of Upper Canada Lodge residents are from the town with the average wait for a bed of 270 days, according to the report.

Coun. Maria Bau-Coote said she would like to know how many Niagara-on-the-Lake residents are living in other long-term care homes across the Region. She said those who were unable to get into the local home would be housed elsewhere and probably would not return when they reached the top of the waiting list.

Coun. Martin Mazza said he was feeling "helpless" about the possibility of losing Upper Canada Lodge, after the town experienced the closures of its high school and hospital in recent years. He also questioned the report's finding that the town was oversupplied with long-term care facilities.

"Health care is one of the most complicated ministries to deal with," said Coun. Terry Flynn. "There are so many different types of care."

"We do have exceptional health care here," he added, referring to the family health team practice and the other long-term care homes operating in the town.

Lord Mayor Pat Darte, one of the members of a regional committee reviewing long-term care options, said Niagara-on-the-Lake is missing the continuum of care model. He said by having different levels of services under one roof, residents would not need to move to a different home when they require more care.

Darte asked the councillors to send their questions to him so he can raise them with Burgess at a meeting Friday. Some councillors also requested that Burgess come to a council meeting to provide more information about long-term care issues.

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Councillors look at hub option, with more beds and services

MARYANNE FIRTH
Standard Staff

A business case will be created to outline options, including health-care hub concepts, for redevelopment of three long-term care homes operated by Niagara Region.

Upper Canada Lodge in Niagara-on-the-Lake and Gilmore Lodge in Fort Erie, each with 80 beds, as well as Linhaven in St. Catharines with 248 beds, are under review by the Region as they will not meet structural compliance requirements by 2025.

A task force including councillors, regional staff and industry experts, was formed in March 2015 to begin reviewing options to redevelop them.

A 144-page preliminary report, prepared by Deloitte and presented to regional council Thursday night, outlined possible directions as well as results from initial public consultation.

Redevelopment is a chance to reduce costs and make operation more efficient for the Region's long-term care beds, said Henriette Koning, the Region's director of seniors services.

Niagara's cost per bed is lower than some municipalities, at about $185 per day, but there is potential to lower that further, she told councillors.

Those decreased costs can be seen in the private and not-for-profit sectors, due partly to "improved facility strategy," she said.

Redevelopment allows Niagara to "leverage the project to gain those efficiencies as well."

By moving away from the 80-bed facility model, it's estimated the Region would see a three per cent efficiency, or $235,000 saving annually, for a 120-bed home, or five per cent or $830,000 for a 240-bed home.

According to feedback from the private and not-for-profit sectors, "no one is building facilities with less than 160 beds at this point in time," said Jason Burgess, the Region's director of procurement and strategic acquisition.

It will be up to council to decide if that's a route it would like to take, he said.

As the redevelopment process moves onto its second phase, with creation of the business case, the Region's total portfolio of long-term care facilities, as well as potential distribution options for beds, will be reviewed, he said.

Early review has identified potential for seniors housing in St. Catharines and Fort Erie, with more investigation needed in Niagara-on-the-Lake, he said.

The report says Niagara-on-the-Lake is "oversupplied" in terms of long-term care beds and does not meet demand to justify a seniors housing development. It suggests other options be explored.

The Region operates 957 long-term care beds, which are under control of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. The province will have the final say on Niagara's redevelopment plan.

Koning said there is an "imbalance in supply and demand" when it comes to local long-term care beds.

Demand among the area's 31 facilities, of which eight are owned by the Region, is 274 people higher than the supply can accommodate, she said, and that number is projected to grow to 2,235 by 2030.

The province, she added, has not indicated plans to provide Niagara with additional beds.

The profile of seniors within the region has changed significantly over the past decade too, Koning said.

The number of seniors dependent on a wheelchair or walker has increased to 75 per cent in 2014, from 29 per cent in 2007, and those diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease or related dementia have increased to 66 per cent in 2014 from 21 per cent 2007.

That growth trend is expected to continue, she said.

CONTINUED > PAGE 4

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Residents want long-term care to feel like home

CONTINUED FROM > PAGE 3

The preliminary report says a hub model, similar to ones toured by the task force in other areas of Ontario, makes sense for Niagara.

Each hub would be unique to its respective community, Burgess said, with potential to include services such as a pharmacy, assisted living, memory care and independent supportive-living seniors housing.

Earlier in 2016, an extensive public engagement process included a statistically valid phone survey, with 600 people contacted, an Internet survey for the general public and six third-party moderated focus groups including facility residents and their families, industry stakeholders and the general public.

Burgess said it was "clear across the board" that people don't want just a long-term care facility, but a hub that offers other services on site as well.

Results of the phone survey indicate 57 per cent of residents would give priority to having fewer long-term care facilities with a broader range of services, over more locations with the current level of service, he said.

One focus group was conducted at Linhaven, where loved ones of residents spoke about liking the "small feel" of the facility, Burgess said. What they didn't realize, he added, is that Linhaven is Niagara's largest, and one of the province's largest, long-term care homes.

It shows, he said, that a facility can "feel like home" with the right staff and design features, regardless of its size.

Feedback also suggests 77 per cent of people feel 30 minutes is the maximum length of time they'd be willing to drive to reach a care facility.

Those time constraints, Burgess said, will be considered by the task force going forward.

Welland councillor Paul Grenier, who chairs the Association of Municipalities of Ontario long-term care task force, supports the hub model.

The Region, he said, needs to come up with policy that "treats this not in isolation as long-term care, but as effectively a health-care delivery and housing issue as well."

"We need to adjust our line of thought," he said, asking the Region embrace the concept of a "continuum of care."

When facilities were built in the past, they were constructed with people expected to be housed for only a few years. That has changed, he said, with seniors living in the system for upward of 20 years.

"We need to wrap our head around that," Grenier said, including the capital and service delivery costs that come with it.

"I see this as being a good first step in Niagara being ahead of the curve for many other municipalities across Ontario that have to deal with this issue."

Pelham Mayor Dave Augustyn was "intrigued" by the hub concept, which contrasts past trends he said seemed to segregate long-term care facilities from the community.

That method was not good from a planning or social perspective, he said, adding the new model seems more promising.

Burgess said council will get to set the priorities for redevelopment, including different options for hubs and the sizes of facilities in the detailed business case, which will also review in detail various short-listed capital procurement options as well as the costs and risk assumptions associated with each.

The preliminary report identified the redevelopment project as a suitable fit for alternative service delivery, otherwise known as a public-private partnership delivery model.

Some local examples of various ASD projects include the Meridian Centre and new hospital in St. Catharines, as well as the Fallsview Casino in Niagara Falls.

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BOB TYMCZYSZYN ST. CATHARINES ST

The long-term care needs of seniors in Niagara are changing, and regional staff are planning changes to the way long-term care homes are operated.

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Police Briefs

Police seminar on fraud

The Niagara Regional Police Service central fraud unit is holding a fraud and elder abuse presentation on Tuesday, April 5.

Hosted by the Ladies of St. Mark's, it takes place at St. Mark's Anglican Church, 41 Byron Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake at 2 p.m. It is open to all, but space is limited.

Contact St. Mark's office at 905-468-3123, to register.

Estate Litigation

Are you facing or contemplating legal action as an estate trustee or a beneficiary of an estate? Do you wish to make a legal claim against an estate? Has a dispute arisen or do you need advice regarding who will make important decisions for you or a loved one under a power of attorney? For estate and power of attorney disputes, please contact Kristi Collins or Johanna McNulty to discuss your options.

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Town Briefs

Virgil welcome sign

The Virgil entrance sign on Niagara Stone Road will be relocated due to the roundabout and construction of the new Wayne Gretzky Winery and Distillery.

The sign was originally built and installed in the late 1990s with the financial assistance of the Virgil Business Association.

Town staff are working with Niagara Region to determine a new, suitable location to mark the entrance to Virgil.

Official Plan open houses

Open houses to review the second draft of the new Official Plan will be held Wednesday, April 6, 6 to 8 p.m. in the Simpson Room at the community centre, and Thursday, April 7, 6 to 8 p.m., in the Mori room of the community centre.

It has been almost 20 years since Niagara-on-the-Lake revised its Official Plan.

In 2015, the Town released a series of technical papers and hosted a public consultation session to hear what the public had to say about how NOTL is growing, about environmental and agricultural issues and how residents are accommodated, and in December released the first draft of the new Official Plan.

A public meeting on the draft plan was held in December, and comments have been incorporated into the second draft of the Official Plan, which is available for review, with hard copies at the town hall, the NOTL Public Library and Queenston Community Centre.

Phragmites meetings

A two-day public workshop was conducted at the community centre in Niagara-on-the-Lake in March to discuss invasive species (phragmites) and vegetated buffers along municipal drain watercourses.

A copy of the presentation and materials are now available online.

See notl.org workshop information, under Hot Topics, to view the documents.

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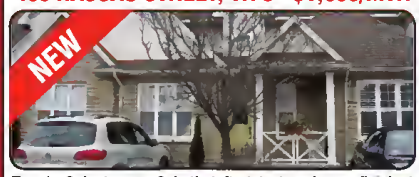

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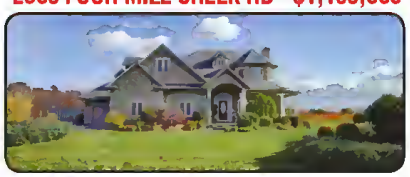

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The Niagara Advance

Peter Conradi regional editor
Penny Coles Editor

Point of View

Hydro One problems now hidden from public scrutiny

Any future claims by the Liberal government of Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne that it is committed to openness and transparency should be measured against the fact Hydro One has now gone dark to public scrutiny.

The Liberals' sale of 60% of the formerly public utility that owns and runs Ontario's electricity transmission system, and directly bills 1.3 million customers, has freed Hydro One from public oversight, including watchdogs such as the auditor general and ombudsman.

One of the first effects of this sale to private interests is that last week's release of its annual Sunshine List of public servants paid more than $100,000 a year, no longer includes Hydro One employees.

Last May, the Legislature's independent watchdogs wrote an extraordinary letter to Wynne's government, urging it to keep Hydro One subject to their review. Without it, they warned:

The Auditor General would not be able to conduct performance audits of Hydro One.

The Ombudsman would have no ability to investigate public complaints about Hydro One.

The Information and Privacy Commissioner would no longer be able to oversee the right of access to Hydro One records.

The Financial Accountability Officer would not be able to examine the impact of planned Hydro One operations on consumers or the economy.

The Integrity Commissioner would no longer review Hydro One expense claims.

Last December, Auditor General Bonnie Lysyk reported that between 2010 and 2014, its customers experienced 24 per cent more outages lasting 30 per cent longer, while maintenance costs increased 31 per cent.

She described Hydro One as "consistently one of the least reliable among large Canadian electricity distributors."

Meanwhile, former Ontario ombudsman Andre Marin reported his office had received hundreds of complaints about unexplained billings, "catch-up" bills, "estimated" bills, multiple bills and over-billing and that trying to get answers was like "wrestling with a slippery pig."

Marin warned Hydro One customers not to allow it to withdraw money from their bank accounts because in some cases it had overdrawn thousands of dollars and refused to return it, even after admitting it was in error. Instead, Hydro One would only give customers credit towards future billings.

Going forward the public has no independent way of knowing whether these problems are being addressed, or getting worse.

– Postmedia Network

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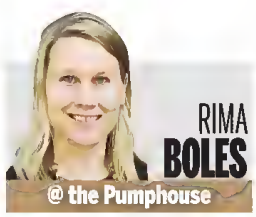
Column

New classes for kids, teens and adults beginning at Pumphouse



The Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre is looking forward to spring with a lineup of classes and workshops for children, youth and adults as well as a list of exciting upcoming events.

Spring is also a sign that we will be re-opening to the public on weekends, starting with our Opening Reception for our new exhibition, Entro, paintings by Susan Lott beginning Sunday, April 3.

April marks the start of our monthly exhibitions, featuring a new artist at opening receptions, usually scheduled for the first Sunday of every month. We are also pleased to announce we are resuming our Family Friendly Drop-In Art Studio, the last Sunday of each month. Mark your calendars – for the many reasons to visit the Pumphouse.

The Niagara Pumphouse is pleased to announce the launch of a series of new children and youth art programs this spring. In addition to our popular Saturday Morning Mini-Masters (ages five to eight) and Afternoon Art Adventures (ages nine to 12) we are offering After-School Art & Artists (also ages nine to 12) and After-School Art Studio (ages 13 to 15).

We are passionate about the power of art education and the positive effects it can have on children and youth in their development. Our programs are designed to challenge students and encourage inventiveness.

After-School Art & Artists will focus on various art historical periods and will examine artistic styles and techniques used by selected artists. Students will apply demonstrated techniques to their art projects under the guidance of professional artist and teacher, Beata O'Connell to create interpretations of famous artworks.

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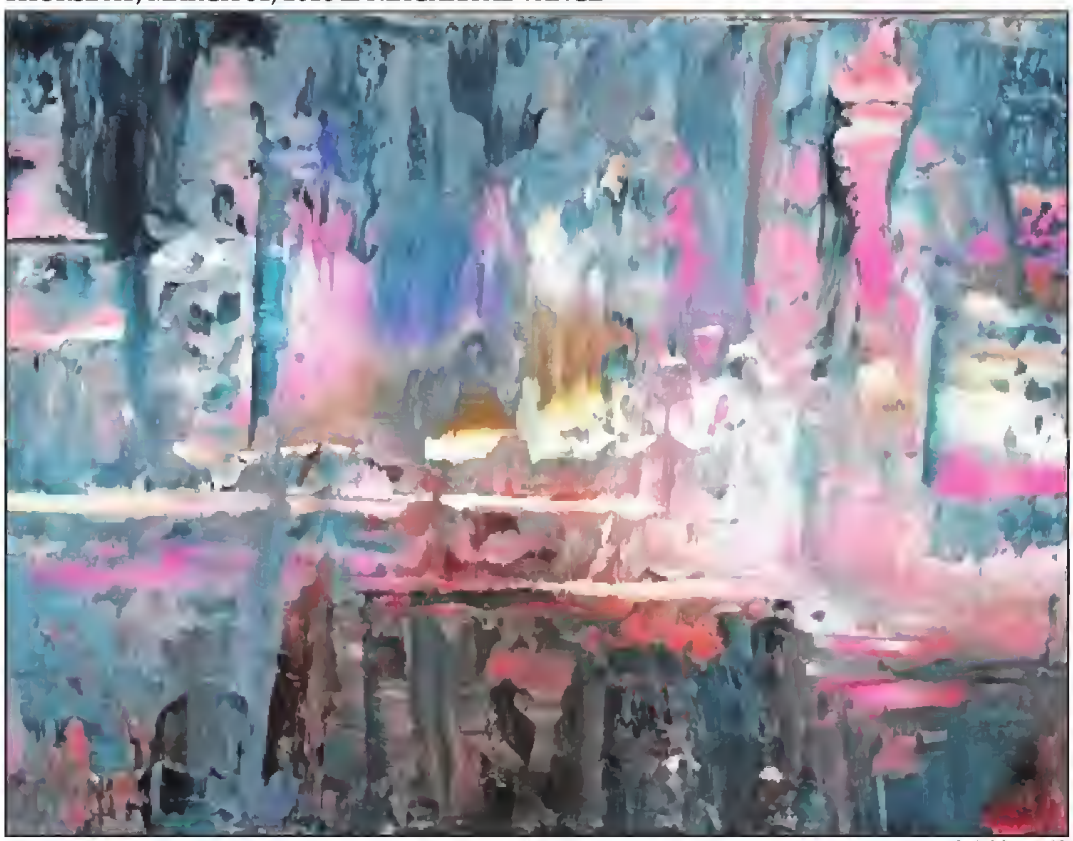

PHOTO SUBMITTED

Susan Lott will be displaying her abstract acrylic paintings at the Pumphouse during the month of April.

PHOTO SUBMITTED

Print-making is one of the techniques teens can learn at the Pumphouse art classes.

Card-making party, artist's reception coming up at art centre

CONTINUED FROM > PAGE 6

The After-School Art Studio is designed to challenge teens, 13 to 17 to try to new media and to learn to use specialty equipment to further develop their drawing, painting, printmaking and sculpting skills. Art instructor and Masters' student, Sarah Porciello has designed a program with examples from art history, visits to the gallery and visiting artists to complement studio projects using professional art supplies and equipment. Classes are starting next week and pre-registration is required. Please call or drop by the Pumphouse to sign up.

The Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the Niagara Community Foundation, which is a public foundation serving the people of Niagara. The Foundation builds permanently endowed charitable funds for the changing need and opportunities of the community and provides grants to eligible charitable organizations in culture, health, education, environment, recreation and social service sectors.

In addition to our children and youth programs, the Pumphouse offers various classes, lectures and workshops for adults. One of our ongoing drop-in programs, Bone to Body, continues Tuesday evenings and offers an informal workshop atmosphere for figure drawing from a live model. A number of upcoming workshops include: Art History Lecture Series on French Impressionism (April 4), Influence on Canadian Art (April 11), and Influence on American Art (April 18), presented by Susan Dobson.

Pottery Wall Art (April 16) will offer instruction on creating a unique clay piece finished in acrylic with professional potter, Monique Mulder-Wallace; Felting (April 17) is an opportunity to make a shawl from Italian merino wool with Valerie Martin; and Watercolour Florals (April 23) is on painting using soft and hard edges with artist Beverly Sneath.

For additional classes, including sessions starting in May, please visit our website www.niagarapumphouse.ca for details.

Please join us for our first event this spring, Sunday April 3, 2 p.m., the opening reception of Entro, paintings by Susan Lott. The title, Entro, Italian for within, was chosen by the artist to represent the selection of abstract acrylic paintings in this exhibition. Lott's inspiration for her abstract paintings comes from colour.

The following weekend, visit the Pumphouse for our Spring Card-Making Party (Saturday April 9 in the afternoon).

Join our Card-Making Party a fun and social afternoon of communal card making. Watch artist demos and try various techniques for yourself. All materials are included. The card-making parties are part of a fundraising effort, and participants will be asked to donate back some of their hand-made cards to be sold at the Pumphouse.

Volunteers power The Pumphouse and it's time to start our engines. We need to fuel our Strategic Plan with the energy, creativity, and commitment of people who understand the importance and potential of The Pumphouse. Together we will review our Strategic Plan at our Volunteer Summit, Sunday, April 10 at 2 p.m., form work teams, and launch a new era. Refreshments will be served. RSVP by April 6, call 905-468-5455 or email office@niagarapumphouse.ca.

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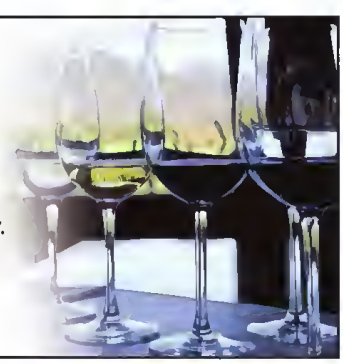

Debate continues over Virgil subdivision

SUZANNE MASON
Special to the Advance

A decision on a new subdivision on Concession 4 in Virgil has been deferred by Niagara-on-the-Lake council to allow more discussions among the developer, town staff and residents.

Councillors had recommended approval of the Woodcastle Estates development for 12 single-detached homes and 50 townhouses last week, but they decided Monday to postpone a final decision until Apr. 18.

Two outstanding issues – the fate of the mature trees along the boundary of the property and the design of the housing units – will be the subjects of the continuing dialogue. The developer had recently amended the plans to include more parkland and a connection to the Virgil Sports Park.

Community and development services director John Henricks has said that most of the trees along the boulevard cannot be saved due to drainage. The new subdivision is lower than the areas surrounding it. The developer has committed to replacing trees that are removed and planting one additional tree per housing unit.

Approval of the development is also conditional on a review of the building drawings by the urban design committee. There was an objection at the public meeting last week to the possibility of two-storey townhouses being built behind the existing subdivision of single-family homes.

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Hours of Operation: Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
www.notl.org

NOTICE TO RESIDENTS
WATER MAIN FLUSHING

The Town will be flushing water mains in the following areas on the dates stated below:

Bevan Heights
March 28 to March 31, 2016

Rural areas, Queenston, St. Davids, Virgil and Niagara-on-the-Green
April 1 to April 29, 2016

During this period, you may notice that your water pressure is low. Discoloured water may also be observed coming from the taps, however this should clear up within an hour.

To clear your service line, it may be necessary to run your cold water taps for a short period of time.

Thank you in advance for your co-operation.

Water/Wastewater Section
Operations Department
905-468-3278

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MPP's office accessible to help NOTL residents

PENNY COLES
Niagara Advance

Wayne Gates, MPP for the Niagara Falls riding that includes Niagara-on-the-Lake, makes house calls.

He also has a Friday afternoon constituency office at the NOTL Public Library, his assistant Ryan Donnelly told town councillors Monday.

Donnelly was at the meeting to remind councillors and the public of Gates' accessibility, including his willingness to help residents access provincial services.

Gates began meeting the public at the library when he won the by-election two years ago, as a way of saying "we want to be part of this community," said Donnelly.

"By placing it at the public library we thought it was a location where people were already going, where they could do multiple things if they had to wait, where we could hear the news of the Town and where we could pay rent that went back into the community."

But he and Gates have also driven to residents' homes to hear from a gathering of people or to assist those who do not have transportation, Donnelly said.

"Often times when dealing with provincial ministries people can very easily become lost in the process. Sometimes through no fault of their own residents' files fall through the cracks and get lost on the ministry's end. Whatever the concern is – our office is there to try and fix the situation with the least amount of stress on the resident."

He said he's helped people access information on starting farms, on where to find small business grants, and on often times very confusing and very lengthy legislation.

"We don't have a magic wand and we can't always solve a direct problem. But I can promise you that we will listen to your concern, we will do our best, and we will tell you exactly what we can or can't do."

He said he wants the public to know that commemorative certificates are available for events, and if Gates' presence is requested at an event, his office staff will put it on his schedule.

There is a dedicated phone line for NOTL, open five days a week, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 289-241 - 2238, he said.

"Whether it's a program or a grant or you're just looking for information, all you have to do call."

"As a staff person I can tell you that over the last two years this community has been incredibly welcoming to us," Donnelly said. "Residents have literally invited us into their homes. They've shared ideas with us, they've told us what they like and what they don't like. That's a relationship we'd like to continue and we'd like to strengthen."

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DECLARES A **20% REFUND** ON AUTO AND **10%** ON PROPERTY FOR **2015 PREMIUMS**

President of the Board Lloyd Roseboom (left) receives refund cheque from Vice-President of the Board Dave Wiley (right) at Bertie and Clinton Mutual's head office.

Bertie and Clinton is a local Mutual Insurance Company that specializes in providing farm insurance to its owning members. By insuring with the company, you can also become a part owner and have a voice in how the company is run. Recently, the company declared a refund from surplus of 20% on auto and 10% on property, liability and commercial premiums in 2015. An amount of $1,857,807 was refunded to the policyholders provided they had been insured for at least one year and their policy was in force at December 31, 2015. Bertie and Clinton has declared a refund from surplus in nineteen of the last twenty-three years and has provided insurance for the Niagara Peninsula residents since 1880.

The company is run by nine directors who are elected by the policyholders at the Annual General Meeting. Each of the nine directors are elected for a three year term, with three being elected each year. At our 136th Annual General Meeting held March 22, 2016 at the Royal Canadian Legion in Fonthill, Howard Augustine of Wainfleet and Domenic Ioannoni of Niagara Falls were re-elected as Directors and Dave Hipple of Beamsville was also elected as a Director, for a three year term.

Lloyd Roseboom of Port Colborne was elected to serve the Company as the President of the Board and Dave Wiley of St. Catharines will serve the Company as the Vice-President of the Board, for the 2016-2017 year. Racheal Siciliano of Welland is the General Manager/CEO.

As of March 23, 2016, one of our Directors, Larry Hipple, began his well-deserved Retirement. Mr. Hipple has been a Director on our Board from 1980 to 2016 and he served as the President of the Board in 1986, 1992, 1999, 2008 and 2015. We would like to thank Mr. Hipple for his 36 years of service and wish him only the best on his retirement journey.

To our Policyholders, we have been able to continuously be successful because of you and we would like to thank you for your dedication and loyalty in making Bertie and Clinton Mutual what it is today.

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Bertie & Clinton MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY

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905-892-0606 or 1-800-263-0494.
Fax 905-892-0365
www.bertieandclinton.com

More than a new sign at the airport

RANDY KLAASSEN
Special to the Advance

Driving along Niagara Stone Road one cannot help but notice the new neon sign - much anticipated after years of a regional airport with no marker - announcing events and services at the Niagara District Airport.

Last Thursday the Airport Commission held its annual general meeting at the terminal building.

In his opening comments, commission chairman Gary Murphy indicated the "easy winter" had made for minimal snow clearing operations.

Considering the 22 million square feet of property to be maintained, Murphy had high praise for the professional staff of Lisa Juras, Cliff Reinhart, Alex Risi, Brenda Henricks, and airport manager Len O'Connor for their excellent work involving over 32,000 movements of aircraft during 2015.

In his report, O'Connor described many aspects of airport operations which provide important services to the Niagara Region. While general aviation services are the major source of traffic at the airport, continuing discussions and planning are underway for development of commercial charter service, he said.

The feasibility of passenger service depends on a number of factors, including construction of an additional passenger terminal for screening.

The Canadian Air Transport Security Authority is responsible for security screening at airports in Canada, and passenger loads will need to justify the cost of screening, he said.

Commission member Terry Flynn, representing NOTL town council, was quick to remind those in attendance that "... the business case for passenger service will develop slowly, and will include discussion of improvements for Niagara Central Airport, west of Welland. There is much that needs to be done, including an environmental assessment, before we will see passenger service."

Niagara District Airport manager Len O'Connor talks about the future of the airport at the annual general meeting.

He added that "Niagara District Airport has come a long way, considering the old portable building we had for a terminal a few years ago, to the new, great, regional facility we have now."

In referring to a full range of aircraft services provided by Allied Aviation, O'Connor indicated that in Allied's three years of operations they are at hanger capacity year round. He also congratulated Allied for providing a variety of services to the public beyond the aviation community.

With an eye to the future, O'Connor said, "The commission is working on developments of new hangers in the southwest area of the airport property. If the project moves ahead the first phase would see 10 hangers built, with the potential of 46 being added in the future."

The Airport Commission is made up of representatives from each of the three municipalities which jointly own the facility: St. Catharines, Niagara Falls, and Niagara-on-the-Lake. Flynn expressed the commission's appreciation of each municipality for their support.

With the airport in good financial shape and solid planning for the future, Murphy noted the "... challenging year ahead with regards to continued discussions of transferring operations to the Niagara Region. It is anticipated the 'next steps' will occur in July, and then October, for the net benefit of the airport."

RANDY KLAASSEN PHOTOS/SPECIAL TO THE ADVANCE

Niagara District Airport now has a new sign to announce it on Niagara Stone Road.

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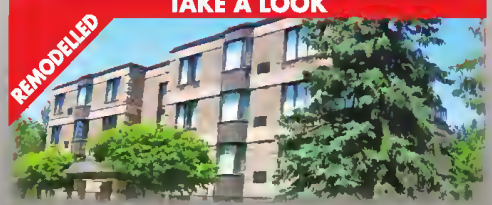

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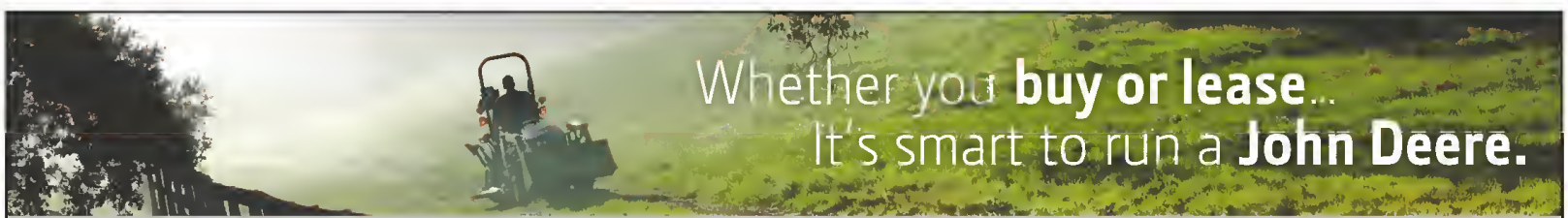
Easter fun

FRED MERCNIK PHOTOS/SPECIAL TO THE ADVANCE

One-year-old JoJo Frendo of Niagara-on-the-Lake has fun with the inflatables at the 20th annua Bunny Trail, organized as a fundraiser for Niagara Nursery School, held Saturday at the community centre.

Youngsters gather chocolate eggs at the NOTL Kinsmen Easter Egg Hunt at the community centre Saturday.



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Lucky winners

FRED MERCNIK/SPECIAL TO THE ADVANCE

Winners of the NOTL Kinsmen Egg Hunt are Drake Evans, Morgan Bowen, Bianca Pontsioen and Nathan Flynn, who received chocolate bunnies, with NOTL Kinsman Ken Slingerland and Crystal Bunny.

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15402 NIAGARA RIVER PARKWAY $449,000

This bungalow is nestled on just under a half acre lot overlooking the majestic Niagara River Parkway. Most of the value is in the land with opportunities to update or expand the existing home. **Marilyn Francis.**

17 EVERGREEN LANE $609,900

Showcasing quality built freehold townhomes consisting of 20 units complementing the historic surrounds of Niagara on the Lake. This luxury townhome is located in a prime location of old town close to shops, theatres, restaurants and walking trails. High end finishes include hardwood, granite countertops, tiled and glass main floor bathroom, interlocked driveway and professional landscaping. **MLS# N30057153. Thomas Elltoft and Kim Elltoft.**

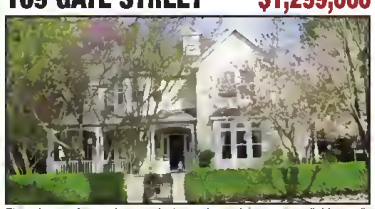
1927 YORK ROAD $549,000

A spacious multilevel home with long views from the escarpment across Niagara's vineyards towards Lake Ontario. All rooms are of a generous size and the plan is versatile to accommodate a large family or home business. Special features include the large Mediterranean style kitchen, several balconies and a 40FT x 20FT concrete pool and 36FT x 16Ft pool house in an enclosed courtyard. **MLS# N30054617. Viviane Elltoft and Thomas Elltoft.**

1566 CONCESSION 4 $496,000

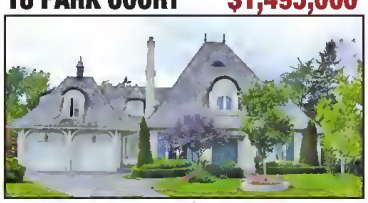
Solid 3 bedroom brick bungalow set on over half an acre of property. Home has been updated and offers 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, eat-in kitchen, living room with fireplace and dining room on main floor. Basement is finished to include spacious rec room with fireplace, home office, playroom and laundry. Lot has potential for severance and is ideal for new build. **MLS# N30054744. Thomas Elltoft and Kim Elltoft.**

169 GATE STREET $1,299,000



This elegant Queen Anne style home located in a prime "old town" location, is a very successful B&B, designed to be the perfect family home as well. A few of the many extras include 4 gas Fireplaces & 5 Bedrooms with Ensuites. The spacious & private verandas plus porches, overlook the stunning gardens providing a stately comfort & cozy ambience. **MLS# N30041328. Phyllis Henderson and Chris Bowron.**

18 PARK COURT $1,495,000



Truly one of the finest homes in Niagara on the Lake. This architecturally designed French Manor is situated on a 1/3 acre beautifully landscaped lot. Located on a quiet court near parkland, The Commons, and backs onto Upper Canada's Nature Trail. Uncompromising quality and meticulous details can be found throughout this wonderful home. **MLS# N30027788. Audrey Wright and Chris Bowron.**

60 ½ SHAKESPEARE AVE $469,000

Recently updated and well maintained raised bungalow located in popular Chatauqua neighbourhood close to lake and backing on to woodland. Convenient basement walk out to landscaped back gardens, heated studio/workshop and gazebo. Walking distance to parks, trails, Main Street shops, restaurants and theatres. **MLS# N30055006. Thomas Elltoft and Kim Elltoft.**

17 LOWER CANADA DRIVE $461,999

Spacious home set on a large lot surrounded by mature trees in desirable Garrison Village. This lovely 3+2 bedroom, 4 bathroom home offers many updates including recently renovated upper level, private rear garden with in ground pool and double garage. **MLS# N30046093. Sarah Gleddie and Victoria Bolduc.**

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Philip Bowron*	905-348-7628	Viviene Elltoft*	905-468-2142	Colleen Blake*	905-328-8799
Bonnie Grimm*	905-468-1256	Thomas Elltoft*	905-380-8012	Christine Bruce*	905-328-9703
Ralph Tallmen*	905-468-2973	Cheryl Carmichael*	905-941-0276	Marilyn Francis*	905-932-1288
Kim Elltoft**	905-380-8011	Sarah Gleddie*	905-685-2458	Linda Williams*	647-201-2889
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*** Broker of Record ** Broker * Sales Representative

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Syrian family sponsored by Grace settling in

PENNY COLES
Niagara Advance

In the last four weeks, Hassam Bulgur has, as an adult, opened his very first hank account, learned how to get cash from an automated teller machine, and shop at the grocery stores with the lowest prices.

Along with his wife Hale, adult daughter Fatin and son Mohammad,he is adjusting remarkahly quickly to life in St. Catharines, having left a refugee camp in Jordan just a short time ago.

The family memhers have even learned how to communicate with those they've left hehind, through the internet and various social media programs, says Boh Goodwin of Grace United Church, which sponsored them.

They've heen asked a lot of questions hy officials representing different agencies, some of them tough to answer, said Goodwin, hut when asked last week hy a representative of an Islamic refugee relief organization how she and her family were adjusting to life in Canada, Hale said Canada is their country now and they are happy to he here and grateful for all the help they are receiving, said Goodwin.

"They lost everything due to the violence in Syria and are extremely grateful for everything that we have heen ahle to provide."

They have heen husy since arriving in Canada and heing hrought to their St. Catharines apartment - they have had medical appointments, lah tests, shopping excursions, trips to the YMCA Newcomers Center for literacy testing, prayers at the mosque on Fridays, visits to Ontario government offices to ohtain health cards, and more.

"Their heads must he spinning," says Goodwin. "Everything is so new to them."

Their son has heen enrolled in Grade 8 at a school that's a 10-minute walk from home, and there are other students there who speak Arahic, so he's settling in. But he has some learning challenges that haven't heen assessed yet - and this is the first stah at school for him since an unsuccessful attempt in Grade 1 - so academics might pose a prohlem, hut he will have access to the "education and the medical help that would he afforded anyone else," said Goodwin.

Hale, Hassam and Fatin are attending classes at St. Johns adult learning centre in literacy and English classes - learning English is a priority for all refugee families and is considered as a critical requirement for future employment.

Hale is overwhelmed hy the choices hefore her in the grocery store - even more so hy a recent trip to Cosco - hut they are finding what they need, and can huy some food at the a shop at their mosque, said Goodwin.

"It's a very large mosque, with a huge population, and they've made all kinds of contacts there."

And no matter the task Goodwin says they have undertaken, at the hank, government offices, medical appointments and the huilding manager at their apartment, "they have heen met with smiles and wonderful services; people have gone out of their way to help the family."

PHOTO SUBMITTED

Fatin Bulgur, one of the members of the Syrian family sponsored by Grace United Church, is taking English classes at St. John's Adult Learning Centre, and settling in well with her parents and brother.

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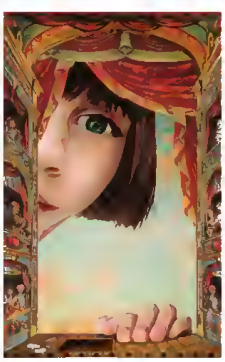

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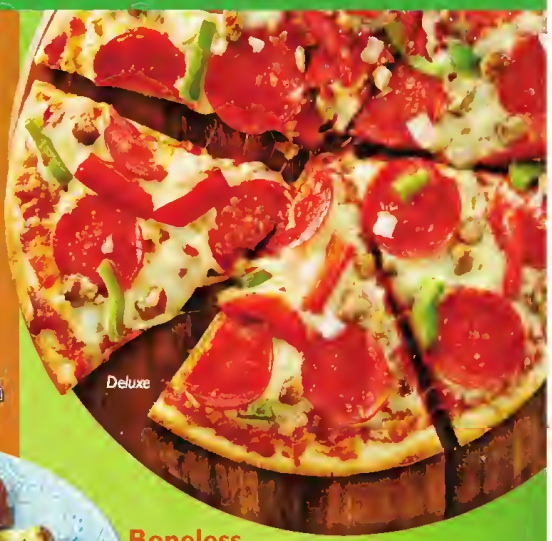

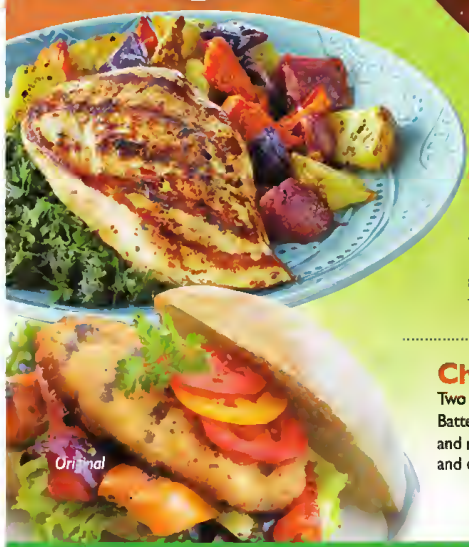

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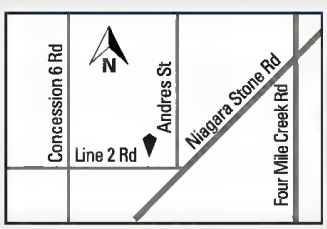

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Summer heat could be a big story for 2016

DON FRASER
Postmedia Network

JULIE JOCSAK/POSTMEDIA NETWORK FILE PHOTO

Niagarans could be looking often for spots to cool off at this summer, if an early forecast holds up.

After a near-record warm winter, a mini-Polar vortex will give us a cold slap of reality this weekend.

But despair not, said Environment Canada's senior climatologist, Dave Phillips — the chill will likely not be a crop-killer and so far it's looking like the summer will be warmer than normal.

April, however, may have some surprises in store.

Phillips said the abiding proverb of our season is "'til April's dead, change not a thread."

"Right now the cold air is never too far from the warm air," said Phillips. "And it's what brings this yo-yo kind of weather."

This weekend could see that in play with high temperatures below freezing and lows of –7°C possible, after temperatures climbing well into the double digits this week.

Phillips said top of mind for many growers is a situation that happened about five years ago, when some severe April lows killed fruit tree blossoms and caused millions of dollars in damage to apple trees and other fruit plants in Ontario.

This seems not too likely to happen as while some buds are out, blossoms are not.

"My sense is that the growth we've seen is not so obvious (as to cause severe damage) ... it's the blossoms that make things very fragile."

In north Niagara, the average date of the last spring frost is April 26, Phillips noted.

"There have been more Aprils with snow, where you are, than without," he added. "So I wouldn't put away the snow shovels quite yet."

This follows a winter where the St. Catharines area had about 68 cm, of snowfall in total. The normal amount is 108 cm.

There were only 14 days when the temperature fell below –10°C, when it normally would see about 23 of them, with precipitation in total roughly normal.

The average temperature was also 2.6°C, almost three degrees warmer than normal.

Phillips said the early summer forecast is for the season to be warmer than normal.

And as for buggy times, which some fear could follow a very-mild winter, the jury is out, he said.

"In terms of mosquitoes, and (potential) West Nile virus, and rodents, I think we didn't see anything necessarily in the winter to suggest there'd necessarily be an abundance of those," he said.

For the most part, The Weather Network meteorologist Doug Gillham backed up Environment Canada's early verdict on the spring and summer.

"Winter does have a couple of parting shots for us as we go through the first half of April," Gillham said. "So it's a bit of a temperature roller-coaster over the next couple of weeks.

"But once we get into mid-April, an above seasonal temperature pattern will dominate the rest of April and May."

The preliminary summer forecast is "warmer than normal," Gillham said.

"It's still a little early to tell if this will just be a summer that was warmer than the past two summers, which were known for their lack of heat.

"Certainly heat will be a bigger story this summer than it has been the last couple of summers."

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Katie Hollingshead, Sherri Koabel and Lita Ratha, students from the Willowbank School of Restoration Arts, looked after a marketplace table in the former Laura Secord School, now Willowbank's lower campus, at last year's open house. The annual event will be held this Saturday at the Queenston estate and lower campus.

Learn about Willowbank at open house

Willowbank Estate and the School of Restoration Arts will hold its annual open house Saturday, April 2, offering an opportunity for newcomers and community members to learn about the school.

Visitors can explore both the estate and the lower campus - the former Laura Secord Elementary School. The 2016 open house is being organized in part by students to raise money for field trips. There will be demonstrations of traditional plastering, carpentry, blacksmithing, stone-carving and window restoration as well as exhibits of student work and great things for sale, with a barbecue for those who want to picnic.

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Poet reading at Niagara College

JOHN LAW
Postmedia Network

Niagara poet Eva Tihanyi is usually the guest at other writers' readings. But on April 4, she'll gather some prominent friends for one of her own.

To help launch her latest book, The Largeness of Rescue, Tihanyi will bring together Toronto writers Andrea Thompson (Over Our Heads), Susan Glickman (The Tale Teller) and Patricia Keeney (The Incredible Shrinking Wife) to join her at Niagara College's Benchmark restaurant in Niagara-on-the-Lake for a free event.

"Usually, I'm part of someone else's party," says the Niagara College broadcasting teacher. "But this is kind of my brainchild."

Tihanyi is very familiar with all three women (Keeney edited her 2012 book Flying Underwater, Poems New and Selected), and "everybody's been at it for a very long time.

"Between the four of us I'd say we probably have about 30 books."

The Largeness of Rescue, Tihanyi's ninth book, doesn't officially come out until May. She describes it as her "soul book" – a reflective collection of poems about looking inward to better process, and change, what's happening around us. As Tihanyi writes, that can be through art ("On Easter Island, 887 stone heads stare down time / Monumental reminders that art might survive"), spirituality and maturity. It is her most serious work - no trace of the humour or witty wordplay of her early books.

"This is not a book I think I could have written when I was 30," says Tihanyi, 59. "It's more outward looking. I'm talking about the world around me now far more than my own life."

It has earned plenty of advance praise from other writers, including Carole Giangrande who calls it "serene in spirit and precise in language...her finest work," and Lawrence Hutchman who says it gives us "a larger idea of what it is to be more ourselves."

"Now, I'm looking at this crazy world of Donald Trump," she says. "I'm looking at people being beheaded on TV. I'm looking at these kind of things, and it's a different kind of introspection. It's really saying, 'I'm one person among millions of people,' so I'm hoping to express things that will resonate with people on a very serious level.

"This is a very serious book. It's not comical, it's not flippant. It doesn't have any attitude."

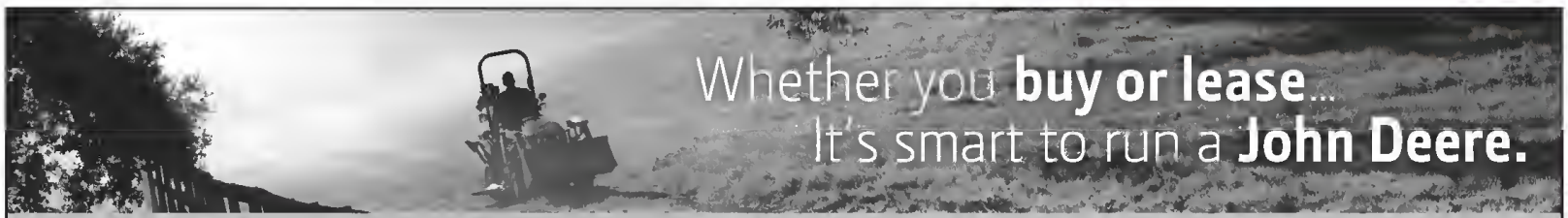
As with every Tihanyi book, there are some heartbreaking passages. Urban Hike recounts the true story of the night she was walking along the Bloor viaduct in Toronto moments before someone had jumped: "Soon people surround us. Nothing draws a crowd like a public death. It won't be in the news though. Not a good idea to give people ideas."

The free Niagara-on-the-Lake event was co-organized with Niagara College's head of libraries Karen McGrath, and is open to the public.

CHERYL CLOCK/POSTMEDIA

Niagara poet Eva Tihanyi will join some of her peers for a book launch at the Benchmark restaurant at Niagara College's Niagara-on-the-Lake campus April 4.

WHO: Eva Tihanyi, with Andrea Thompson, Susan Glickman and Patricia Keeney.
WHERE: Benchmark restaurant; 135 Taylor Road; Niagara-on-the-Lake
WHEN: April 4, 1 to 3 p.m.
ADMISSION: Free



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Agricultural committee opposes protection for Niagara River

SUZANNE MASON
Special to the Advance

The town of Niagara-on-the-Lake has deferred a decision indefinitely on whether to support the Niagara River being designated as a Ramsar site - an international recognition for significant wetlands – due to concerns raised by its agricultural advisory committee.

The Ramsar Treaty, signed in Iran in 1971 by 168 countries, provides honourary endorsements of the global importance and ecological significance of rivers. It promotes the conservation and wise use of wetlands through local, national and international collaboration.

A Canada-U.S. Ramsar steering committee that includes representation from the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, passed a resolution last June endorsing the proposed designation for the Niagara River.

In a letter to the town of Fort Erie last October, NPCA chair Bruce Timms wrote that major accomplishments have been made reducing toxins in the Niagara River since the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement was signed by the two countries in 1972.

"In order to acknowledge this achievement of improved health and prosperity, a Ramsar designation for the river is being pursued," he wrote. "Ramsar designation is voluntary and carries no regulatory implications."

The Niagara-on-the-Lake agricultural advisory committee asked town council not to support the Ramsar designation. At a meeting in February, the committee said the designation could have potential negative impacts on the agricultural community.

"The committee noted there was not enough clarity and too many unanswered questions," the committee reported to council, including "the potential for new regulations that would make it more difficult to farm."

A planning staff report to council said the agricultural committee recently received information about municipalities in Australia and Manitoba that have designated Ramsar sites. It said there appears to be additional legislative controls and protections placed on these sites now.

Staff also reported that there could be a positive side to a designation as there could be more funding for the town to monitor and improve the river's water quality.

"There's no real rush for a Ramsar designation," said Coun. Maria Bau-Coote, who suggested that council wait until a new official plan is completed to discuss the issue again.

"I would be very concerned if we turned down the request," said Coun. Jamie King, but he agreed with postponing a decision at this time on the agricultural committee's request to not support the Ramsar designation.

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Sports

Editor **Penny Coles**
905-468-3283 ext. 103 penny.coles@sunmedia.ca

Midget Wolves provincial finalists

Last week was a tough one for the Niagara-on-the-Lake midget Wolves, who were finalists in the Ontario Minor Hockey Association championship series.

Tied 1-1 in the best-of-five series, with a 2-1 win against the Napanee Stars last week, the Wolves were at home Saturday night for Game 3.

The first period saw the Wolves get lots of scoring chances, but they just could not find a way to get one by the Napanee goaltender. In a second period flurry, the Stars scored three quick goals on route to finishing the game with a 3-0 victory and a 2-1 series lead.

The fourth game of the series took place on Sunday night in Napanee, and it was a very similar fate for the Wolves. The team played extremely well and carried the play for the majority of the game, but just were not able to squeak out any offense. Entering the third period tied 1-1, NOTL just could not catch a break. Napanee would score to go up 2-1 with eight minutes left and eventually get a 4-1 victory as NOTL desperately tried to force a fifth game.

Hot Tub Hockey playoff results

Team	Wins	Losses	Ties	Points	Place
Canadians	4	1	0	8	1
Leafs	4	1	0	8	2
Hawks	4	1	0	8	3
Rangers	2	3	0	4	4
Wings	1	4	0	2	5
Bruins	0	5	0	0	6

In the final playoff games, the Leafs defeated the Canadians 4-3 to win the championships, the Rangers won the consolation round 4-3 against the Hawks, and the Wings beat the Bruins 5-4 in the friendship game.

PHOTO SUBMITTED

The midget Wolves played well but managed only one win in the best of five Ontario Minor Hockey Association finals against Napanee. This season's team included (back left) trainer Garrett Sartor, assistant coach Garret Kaszycki, Mackenzie Berg, Jake Vanderveen, David Campbell, Cody Wall, Matthew Mines, Nick Elia, Riley Lepp, Saul VanderZalm, assistant coach Ryan Pauls, head coach David Mines, (middle) Scott Falk, Kyle Legros, AJ Holenski, Frank Terpak, Eric Trostenko, Malcolm VanderZalm, Chris Weier and (front) goaltenders Nik Rigas and Alex Read.

NOTL Minor Hockey
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- Engineering and/or construction.

Please read the role description and download an application form available on our website, www.niagarahealth.on.ca.

To express your interest, please submit the completed application and your resume to Dr. Barry Wright, Chair, Nominating Committee c/o Danielle Dube by April 8, 2016.

For more information, please call Danielle Dube at 905-378-4647 ext. 43103 or email Danielle.dube@niagarahealth.on.ca

Bantam AE Wolves win Belcot against Lincoln Blades

The Niagara-on-the-Lake bantam All-Green Irrigation AE team ended a great season by capturing the Belcot B championship.

The Wolves defeated their rivals, the Lincoln Blades, in two very close games for the win. NOTL took the first game 3 – 1 with goals from Taylor Glauser, Nick Simmonds and Josh Frena. Assists went to Justice Ball, Brett Wilson and Tyler Cullen.

The second game played at the Meridian Credit Union Arena was playoff hockey at its finest. Niagara was down 1-0, but goals by Wilson (2), Frena and Ball gave NOTL a 4 - 2 lead halfway through the third period.

With two minutes left, Lincoln pulled their goalie and scored to make it 4-3. Lincoln kept the goalie out in favour of another player and NOTL goalie Kyle Irving made many great saves. However, with a man advantage Lincoln scored again with 45 seconds left to tie the game. After a time out to regroup, NOTL kept the pressure on and with 5 seconds left, NOTL got a two on one breakaway, with Glauser making an awesome pass to Ball who put it in the net for a 5-4 lead. This brought the hometowns fans to their feet, cheering their team and celebrating their win. Assists in the game went to Kai Bartel, Sean Vanderzalm and Simmonds.

Throughout the year, the team played well together, supported each other and showed great sportsmanship.

PHOTO SUBMITTED

The NOTL AE bantam Wolves won the Belcot championship against the Lincoln Blades. Playing for the win were (back) Justice Ball, Sean Vanderzalm, Taylor Glauser, Bosten Parliament, Kai Bartel, Tyler Cullen, Ethan Carmichael, (middle) Josh Frena, Colby Ostromecki, Griffin DenBesten, NickDiFruscio and (front) Brett Wilson, Nick Simmonds, Alexandre Brillion, Kyle Irving, coached by Dave Cullen, Carl Glauser, Paul Bartel and Mike Frena.

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Legals

NOTICE

All claims against the estate of GEOFFREY MAYO, late of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, in the Regional Municipality of Niagara, who died on or about the 26th day of October, 2015, must be filed with the undersigned Executrix on or before the 14th day of April, 2016; thereafter, the undersigned will distribute the assets of the estate having regard only to the claims then filed.

DATED this 17th day of March, 2016

ELAINE MAYO
Executrix for the Estate
by her solicitor
RICHARD J. W. ANDREWS
202-1118 Garrison Village Drive
Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario L0S 1J0

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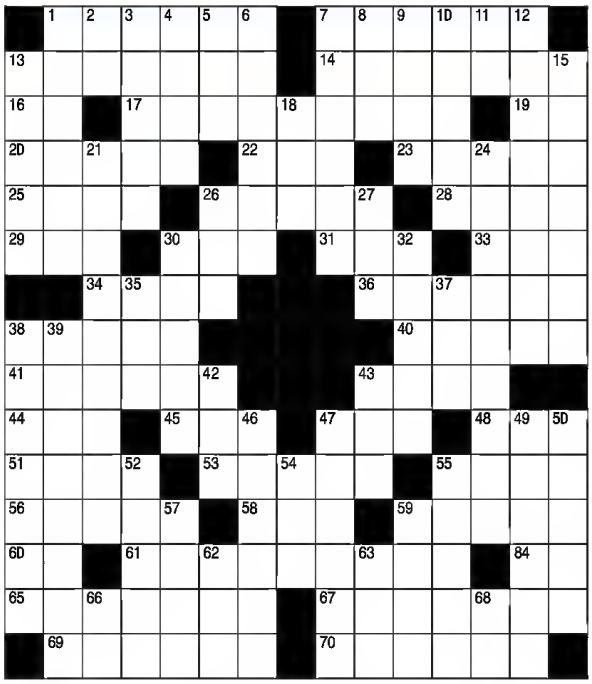
puzzles



CLUES ACROSS

1. Listen again
7. Expressed sentiments
13. Membrane
14. Pelvic areas
16. Blood type
17. Vacated
19. Fullback
20. Nissan's tiny car
22. Be able to
23. Outcast
25. Day laborer
26. Greek prophetess
28. Soluble ribonucleic acid
29. Sirius Satellite Radio
30. Actor Josh
31. A way to clean
33. Left
34. Compensated
36. Member of U.S. Navy
38. Reject
40. Group of notes sounded together
41. Christian holiday
43. European river
44. Female hip hop group
45. Score
47. Moved fast
48. Chronicles (abbr. Biblical)
51. Type of tie
53. Indicates silence
55. Asian people
56. Pearl Jam bassist Jeff
58. Western U.S. time zone
59. 'Signs' rockers
60. Confidential informant
61. Lawyer
64. Overdose
65. Football equipment
67. Governments
69. Branch of physics
70. Makes happy

CLUES DOWN

1. Animal disease
2. Typographical space
3. Sportscaster Chick
4. Italian Island
5. Cooked in a specific style
6. Smelling or tasting unpleasant
7. Name
8. Adult male humans
9. Pitcher Hershiser
10. Pat Conroy novel "The Prince of _"
11. __ route
12. Protects the goal
13. Furnishings
15. Scraped
18. Apply with quick strokes
21. Blood cell
24. Nose
26. Doleful
27. __ Angeles
30. Fruit tree
32. Smooth brown oval nut
35. Works produced by skill and imagination
37. Satisfaction
38. Reversal
39. Tan-colored horse
42. Tell on
43. Pitcher Latos
46. Fast-flowing part of river
47. Hang 'em up
49. Rings
50. Lead from one place to another
52. Beginning
54. Reciprocal of a sine
55. Worth
57. Indian hat
59. Cloak
62. Resinous secretion of insects
63. __ Aviv, Israel
66. European Parliament
68. Of I

RENAL CARE WORD SEARCH

K	T	N	E	I	P	I	C	E	R	V	I	A	R	Y	H	U	A	Y	L
D	M	C	O	V	E	R	L	O	A	D	T	G	S	I	L	V	L	V	K
F	E	T	V	C	B	A	M	N	F	R	B	P	K	T	B	E	B	G	C
E	I	H	K	F	I	A	O	A	A	S	O	I	R	T	N	N	U	A	F
Y	L	H	Y	M	I	R	C	N	L	I	L	A	P	D	E	L	M	A	Y
A	H	B	E	D	H	L	S	U	B	N	F	L	O	N	D	F	I	S	K
I	I	N	A	P	R	P	T	F	T	I	U	C	E	N	N	L	N	F	M
A	A	R	E	E	L	A	Y	E	L	E	R	T	U	C	U	N	L	T	T
S	R	N	E	A	M	E	T	T	R	I	S	O	R	R	O	U	L	S	H
N	F	T	N	T	N	R	R	I	N	E	S	U	E	I	I	Y	U	V	A
B	I	T	E	D	C	A	E	O	O	A	D	X	S	D	T	O	G	Y	N
G	R	A	I	R	T	A	L	P	R	N	V	U	C	M	N	I	T	S	T
N	E	K	P	I	I	O	B	T	L	N	F	A	R	E	Y	L	O	D	I
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G	A	N	U	I	M	U	S	M	I	H	E	A	D	Y	N	G	H	G	O
I	R	U	S	L	M	T	O	D	E	R	R	B	L	X	Y	E	E	I	D
T	K	T	O	M	F	D	U	T	P	T	D	I	A	L	Y	S	I	S	I
N	E	H	R	P	B	E	E	G	N	U	C	C	R	R	T	I	B	O	E
A	R	G	A	A	S	R	R	I	X	V	V	E	U	S	S	I	T	E	S
O	C	H	R	O	N	I	C	U	R	O	N	O	D	V	L	A	N	E	R

Find the words hidden verticolly, horizontolly & diogonolly throughout the puzzle.

WORDS

ABDDMEN
ACUTE
ALBUMIN
ANEMIA
ANTIBOOIES
ANTIGEN
ARTERIES
BACTERIA
BIDPSY
CATHETER
CELLS
CHRDNIC
DEHYDRATIDN
DIALYSIS
DIFFUSION
DDNDR
ENDDCRINDLDGIST
FAILURE
FILTER
FLUIO
INTRAVENDUS
KIONEY
MALNUTRITION
MARKER
NEPHRDN
DVERLDAD
PAIN
PERMEABLE
RECIPIENT
REFLUX
RENAL
TISSUE
TRANSPLANT
ULTRAFILTRATION
ULTRASDUND
URINE

SUDOKU

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9			2					
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7			8				2	
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	3		4		8	5		
2					5			
				9	1		3	

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6			4	7				9
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8							7	
2				6				4
5				1	7	9		8

Peller puts its Signature on Cabernet Franc

BOB TYMCZYSZYN
Niagara Uncorked

To be honest, I have met winemaker Katie Dickieson several times over the years but it's always been a 'Hi, nice to meet you,' 'very nice wine' and so on relationship.

Sharing a half-hour with her recently, I found her to be both very articulate and yet very down to earth.

"It may be a hit small-town, but I came from a rural upbringing. I grew up on a farm. That's the reason I got into the industry. The seasonality, the vintage variation that's what I want to show in the wines."

Her shoulders carry the responsibility for about 30 different wines in the Peller Estates catalog, but she is also the one, as she calls it, "foot-stomping" through the vineyards to make the decision when Peller will pick and how the fruit is coming along.

"I feel it's a good day if I see dirt on the floor," said Dickieson.

"I need to be out there to see the niche success stories and react if I see a block that is performing well."

Working with her team, she oversees three tiers of Peller wines; the Peller family series, that tends to be more fruit forward; Private Reserve, which is a little more vineyard focused and usually incorporates some amount of barrel, more of a food wine with an extra level of complexity; and then the top level is the Signature series, which is not necessarily made every year as the quality of the vintage dictates.

"The inputs into that wine are so much greater, that added level of focus and attention," Dickieson said of the Signature series.

"Winemaking is about details, it's about making as few compromises as possible.

"I think it's a lot of balls to juggle hut every time you don't think of the detail the wine suffers," she said.

"You want that level of consistency at the Peller family series, but it still speaks to the vintage and even more so our Signature series wines. I want them to showcase the day and the year they were grown."

Dickieson is frank in hoping that people can taste that extra level of thought given to the wine.

"It's harvested on the best date, handpicked by the best crew, with the proper amount of thinning at the right time. If not then I'm not doing my job."

She is sensible enough to know people just have to like a wine, period.

"I want deliciousness in wine.

"The wine has to be likable as it is, I don't want to have to search for reasons to like it."

The winemaker poured a glass of the 2012 Signature series Cabernet Franc that she is especially excited about.

"(Cabernet Franc) Is a variety that speaks to me. In Niagara you can buy a really great $12 version, hut also really awesome Signature series."

"The 2012 Signature series is 100 per cent from the Four Mile Creek," she said.

"The reason I'm loving this wine is that it's getting better as it's aging."

A lot to it right off the bat, a nice dark colour greets you, hinting that this will be a fuller wine. The aromas on the nose are splendid with subtle raspberry and black fruit. There is no "greenness" that you might sometimes pick up with the varietal.

On the palate there is more dark fruit and some vanilla. There is a little puckering of the mouth, which means it would do with some good decanting or even a little more time in the bottle.

Like the lahel, this wine is elegant but also well balanced with the right acidity, fruit and alcohol that makes it refreshing enough to have another glass (or two).

Full but not a heavy red, it's easy on it's own or even better with a red meat dinner.

This is a must-have that shows how well we can make Cabernet Franc in Niagara.

While you're visiting the winery in Niagara-on-the-Lake sample the Signature series Ice Cuvee Rose. A hint of Gamay to the blend adds to the complexity of this dry sparkling.

btymczyszyn@postmedia.com
Twitter: @bobtym

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

ADVANCE Notices

FISH FRY
Public Welcome
Take Out Available
Every Thursday 4:30 - 7:30
New Members Welcome
Royal Canadian Legion
Branch # 124, 410 King Street, NOTL
Hall Rental Available ~ Call 905-468-2353

ST. DAVIDS LIONS HALL RENTAL
1462 York Road
ANY EVENT
905-262-4844

The Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre
247 Ricardo St.,
Niagara-on-the-Lake
niagarapumphouse.ca
905-468-5455

BEEF - ON - A - BUN
GRACE UNITED CHURCH
Friday, April 8 • 5 – 7 pm
Adults: $14, Children (under 10): $5.00
Tickets: 905-468-7020. Also at the door.

1st St. Davids Scouting 35th Annual Pancake Breakfast
St. Davids Lions Club
SCOUTS CANADA
April 3, 2016
9am to 1pm
Adults $8.00
Kids under 12 $4.00

SPRING TIME IN OLD TOWN
Charity Craft & Vendor Show
APRIL 9th ~ 10 to 4 & APRIL 10th ~ 11 to 4
St. Vincent de Paul Hall ~ 222 Davy St., NOTL
2 FLOORS 60+ Vendors, Prizes & Raffle Table,
Admission: Non Perishable & Pet Food Items
Proceeds to Newark Neighbours, Food Bank & Humane Society

University Women in Niagara
Wednesday, April 13th ~ 6:30 pm
WINE TASTING
at Inniskillin Winery
1499 Line 3 & Niagara Parkway
Cost $10.00 per person
For information call Ruth 905-468-3765

ACBL
Learn Bridge Today!
Free Intro Session
Wednesday, April 6, 2016 9 a.m. - 12 noon
Penner Room, NOTL Community Centre.
Beginner Lessons start April 13 and run until June 1.
Cost is $80 for 8 lessons.
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and/or the lessons by phoning
Marlene at **905-359-4433.**
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www.NOTLDBC.ca

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Sponsored by: **Inspire Health Niagara**
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905-262-7051 or theheartmindcoach@gmail.com
theheartmindcoach.com/holistic-health-talks-cafe.html

Place your Coming Event / Community Calendar Social here, with or without a border, Colour, Graphics optional. Include your Logo!
Deadline: Monday 3 pm
Call Anna at 905-468-3283 ext 102

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WILLIAM MILLER*

OPEN HOUSE SUNDAY 2-4PM

480 GATE STREET - NOTL $449,000

Selling close to Land value. 70 ft x 115 ft beautiful mature treed lot comes with bonus Side Split offering 1600 sqft of comfortable living space. Lower level is an ideal suite with separate entrance. Sumptuous Backyard Oasis with Inground Pool. Enjoy as is, renovate rebuild or rent out. **Meet Will or call today!**

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1205 - 701 GENEVA STREET $350,000

This is a great opportunity to get into a Beachview Condominium in St. Catharines!
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Great value in this 2 bdrm, 2 bath suite with 2 parking spaces. Large balcony with access from 3 principal rooms. 5 appliances, eat-in kitchen, formal LR & DR, large master suite. 1,650 sq ft.

#16 - 1448 NIAGARA STONE $1,800/MTH

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www.SallyMillerProperties.com
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3723 CONCORD AVE - FORT ERIE $309,900

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We can help navigate this fast paced market. Call THEbTEAM today at 905-687-9229 to discuss your home and the current market. Visit www.THEbTEAM.ca
Patrick Burke* | James Broderick*

1452 FOUR MILE CREEK ROAD $1,085,000

Fabulous home with beautiful views and all the stunning finishes you would expect and much more!
Erin understands that the journey of selling your home and creating home in a new space can be exciting and stressful, and she would love to help you do it!
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